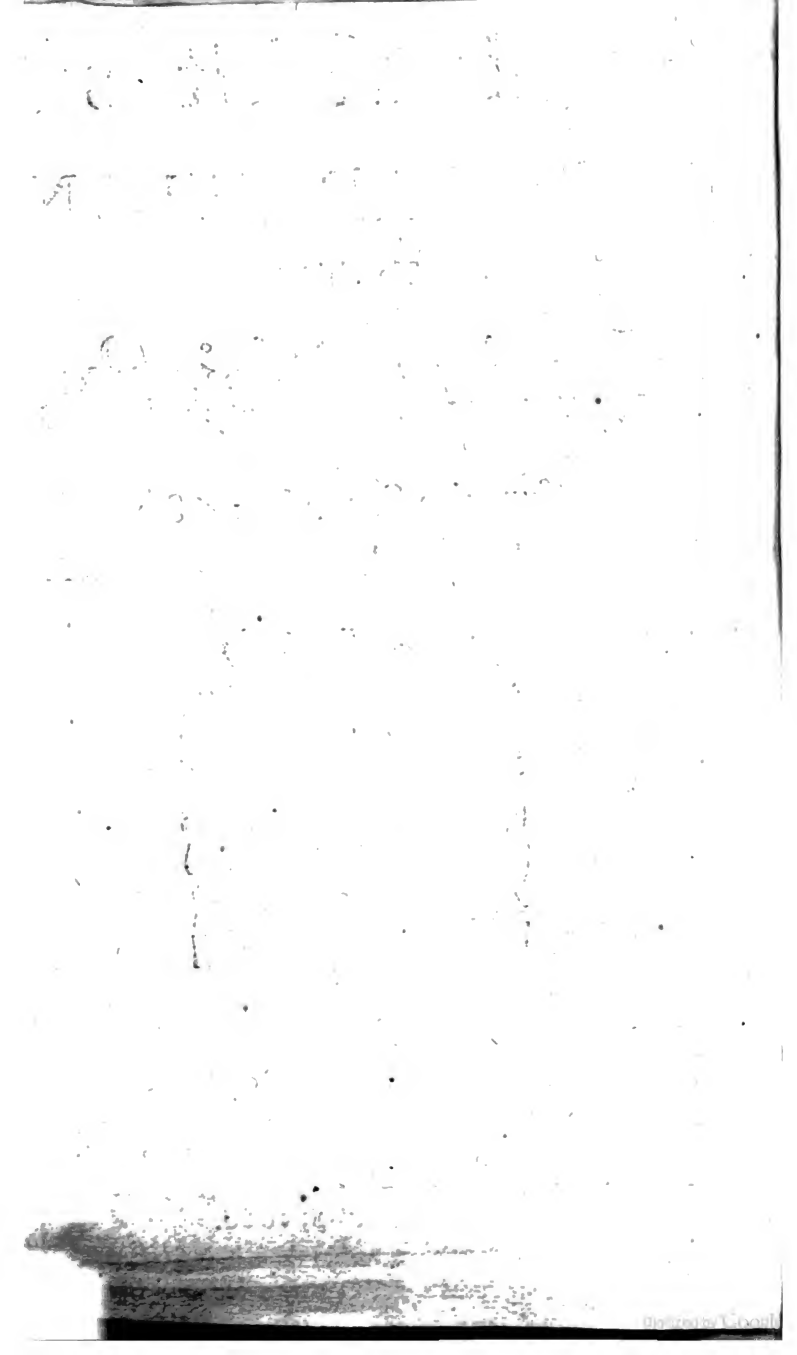


**HIS MAJESTIES
DECLARATION
TO ALL HIS
LOVING
SUBJECTS, ...**

Charles 2.>





Charles R.

129



E cannot but take notice of the great Industry and Malice wherewith some Men of a Seditious and Restless Spirit, do spread abroad a most false and scandalous Report of a Marriage or Contract of Marriage supposed to be had and made between Us and one

Mrs *Walters*, alias *Barlow*, now deceased; Mother of the present Duke of *Monmouth*, aiming thereby to fill the minds of Our Loving Subjects with Doubts and Fears, and if possible, to divide them into Parties and Factions, and as much as in them lies, to bring into Question the clear undoubted Right of Our True and Lawful Heirs and Successors to the Crown. We have therefore thought Our Self obliged to let Our Loving Subjects see what steps We (out of Our Care of them and their Posterity) have already made, in order to obviate the ill Consequences that so dangerous and malicious a Report may have in future times upon the Peace of Our Kingdoms.

In *January* last was *Twelvemonth*; We made a Declaration written with Our own Hand in these Words following;

T Here being a false and malicious Report industriously spread abroad by some, who are neither Friends to

Me or the Duke of Monmouth, as if I should have been either Contracted or Married to his Mother; and though I am most confident that this idle Story cannot have any effect in this Age, yet I thought it My Duty in relation to the true Succession of this Crown, and that future Ages may not have any pretence to give Disturbance upon that score, or any other of this nature, to Declare, as I do here Declare in the presence of Almighty God, That I never was Married, nor gave any Contract to any Woman whatsoever, but to My Wife Queen Catherine, to whom I am now Married. In witness whereof I set my Hand at Whitehall the Sixth of January 167⁸.

Charles R.

And this Declaration I make in the presence of

W. Cant.

H. Finch. C.

H. Coventry.

J. Williamson.

To

To strengthen which Declaration, it
 We did in *March* following,
 (which was *March* last was Twelve-
 month) make a more publick Declarati-
 on in Our Privy Council, written like-
 wise with Our own Hand; and having
 caused a true Transcript thereof to be En-
 tred in Our Council Books, We Signed
 it, and caused the Lords of Our Privy
 Council then attending us in Council, to
 subscribe the same likewise, and We
 Ordered the Original to be kept in the
 Council Chest, where it now remains.
 The Entry whereof in the Council Book,
 is in these words following;

By command of His Majesty
 At

2. 15. 10

At the Court at *WHITEHALL*, March the 3^d. 167⁸;

Present

The Kings most Excellent Majesty

Lord Chancellor	Earl of <i>Essex</i>
Lord Treasurer	Earl of <i>Bathe</i>
Duke of <i>Lauderdale</i>	Earl of <i>Craven</i>
Marquess of <i>Worcester</i>	Earl of <i>Aylesbury</i>
Earl of <i>Offory</i>	Lord Bishop of <i>London</i>
Lord Chamberlain	Lord Bishop of <i>Durham</i>
Earl of <i>Sunderland</i>	Lord <i>Maynard</i>
Earl of <i>Clarendon</i>	Mr. Vice-Chamberlain.

His Majesty was this day pleased to Command, That the Declaration hereafter following be entered in the Council Book, It being all Written and Signed by His Majesties own Hand, in a Paper which His Majesty this day delivered at the Boord, to be kept in the Council Chest. *Viz.*

For the avoiding of any Dispute which may happen in time to come, concerning the Succession of the Crown, I do here Declare in the presence of Almighty God, That I never gave nor made any Contract of Marriage, nor was Married to any Woman whatsoever, but to My present Wife Queen Catherine now living. Whitehall, the Third day of March 167⁸/₉.

Charles R.

His Majesty Commanded us who were present
at the Making and Signing this Declaration, to At-
test the same,

Finch C.
Danby
Lauderdale
Worcester
Offory
Arlington
Sunderland
Clarendon

Essex
Bathe
Craven
Aylesbury
H. London
N. Durham
W. Maynard
G. Carteret.

IN April last We found the same Rumour not onely
revived again, but also improved with New Ad-
ditions, To wit, It was given out, That there
was a Writing yet extant, and lately produced before
several Persons, whereby the said Marriage, or a
Contract at least (for the Report was various) would
appear, and that there are several Lords and others
yet living, who were pretended to have been present
at the said Marriage. We knew full well that it
was impossible that any thing of this should be true,
(there being nothing more groundless and false then
that there was any such Marriage or Contract between
Us and the said Mrs Walters, alias Barlow) yet We
proceeded to call before Us, and caused to be Inter-
rogated in Council, such Lords and other Persons,
as the common Rumour did surmise to have been
present at the pretended Marriage, or to know some-
thing of it, or of the said Writing. And though it
appeared to all Our Council, upon the hearing of
the said Lords and other Persons severally Interroga-
ted, and upon their denying to have been present at
any such Marriage, or to know any thing of it, or

of any ſuch Writing, That the raiſing and ſpreading of ſuch a Report, ſo incoherent in the ſeveral parts of it, was the effect of deep Malice in ſome few, and of looſe and idle Diſcourſe in others; Yet We think it requiſite at this time, to make Our Declarations above recited more publick; and to Order the ſame (as We do hereby with the Advice of Our Privy Council) to be forthwith Printed and Published. And We do again upon this Occaſion call Almighty God to Witneſs, and Declare upon the Faith of a Chriſtian, and the Word of a King, that there was never any Marriage, or Contract of Marriage had or made between Us and the ſaid Mrs *Walters*, alias *Barlow*, the Duke of *Monmouths* Mother, nor between Us and any Woman whatſoever, Our Royal Conſort Queen *Catherine*, that now is, only excepted.

And We do hereby ſtrictly require and command all Our Subjects whatſoever, that they preſume not to utter or publiſh any thing contrary to the tenor of this Our Declaration, at their Peril, and upon pain of being proceeded againſt according to the utmoſt Severity and Rigor of the Law.

Given at Our Court at Whitehall, the ſecond day of June, in the Two and thirtieth Year of Our Reign.